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issue 22, volume 85 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, May 28, 2026

Village Council approve budget amendments, receive projects update
PAGE 4

Raiders open post season in girls' softball after capturing conference title
PAGE 9

A new chapter for Flagship Fish Market
PAGE 14

ARS Gallery cuts the ribbon in Lakeside **PAGE 18**

ROUND AND ROUND...
WELCOMING SUMMER AT ANNUAL FAMILY FESTIVAL

— PAGE 10 —

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Officer critical after hospital shooting

BY STAN MADDUX

Doctors are optimistic about the future recovery of a La Porte County Police officer shot three times at the hospital outside Michigan City Friday, May 22.

Deputy Jon Samuelson was airlifted to Memorial Hospital in South Bend after the suspected gunman was taken into custody.

After the shooting, Sheriff Ron Heeg said Samuelson was in critical condition.

"We're asking the community to keep everyone affected in their thoughts and prayers while we work through the situation," he said.

More recently, police said Samuelson was in critical but stable condition following eight hours of surgery deemed by medical personnel as successful.

Samuelson is a 12-year member of the department.

According to police, Samuelson stopped to help who he thought was a disabled motorist in the area of Indiana 2 and 900 West near Westville.

At the driver's request, police said Samuelson drove him to Franciscan Health hospital just outside the southern edge of Michigan City and left.

A few minutes later, the officer learned the man was a suspect in a crime that occurred at some point in the past.

Indiana State Police spokesman Sgt. Glen Fifield said Samuelson returned to the hospital to either talk to the man or arrest him when things became physical in the emergency room area before the suspect produced a gun and shot the officer.

"The suspect then fled the hospital on foot and into a wooded area west of the hospital," he said.

Fifield said it wasn't long before the suspect was taken into custody without further incident.

The suspect is 22-year-old Sharod Grafton, Jr. of Chicago, who's charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with attempted murder, battery and auto theft.

Police said they do not know right now why Grafton asked to be taken to the hospital.

For those who consistently agree with the "group" in order to be liked to retain influence, strength in numbers, and of course self interest, you're currently a fake human living inside a beautiful soul.
— Dino N. Fatouros, Lucca, Italy

SONGS BY THE FIRE: A COMMUNITY CAMPFIRE SING-ALONG

The School of American Music invites the community to slow down, gather close, and lift their voices together at a joyful afternoon of music under the open sky at a Harbor Country Singers Campfire Sing-Along at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 31, in the welcoming outdoor campfire circle at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator (14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert).

The free event will be led by the Harbor Country Singers, a beloved local choir and outreach program of the School of American Music and produced by Pat Putnam. Songbooks will be provided, and seating is available on campfire logs, with guests welcome to bring their own chairs or blankets for added comfort. In case of rain, the event will move indoors.

Guests are encouraged to bring a donation of nonperishable food items for Neighbor by Neighbor, a local nonprofit that connects vulnerable residents of southwest Berrien County with vital services. Most needed items include pull-tab cans of soups, stews, tuna, ravioli, spaghetti, or other ready-to-eat foods.

The Harbor Country Singers is a project of the School of American Music, made possible through generous support from The Pokagon Fund, community donors, and the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, which graciously provides the venue.

For more information, visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com or contact the School of American Music at 269-409-1191. — STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Village Council approve budget amendments, receive projects update

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Seeing as how the village is reaching the end of its fiscal year next month, Grand Beach Village Council President Harry Walder listed projects that have been done this spring by the council and Department of Public Works in the village at the council's Wednesday, May 20, meeting.

After a public hearing before the regular meeting, members of the Grand Beach Village Council approved budget amendments for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Last November, residents approved increasing the village's millage to 9.0 mills, and they'll collect the new rate beginning in September. Walder said the actual collection will be based on 8.9127 mills due to the Headlee Amendment, which reduces the millage rate every year.

Projects have included painting the Department of Public Works building; clearing about 300 feet along Grand Beach Road and planting new trees; stocking the pond with 25 largemouth bass and 200 Bluegills, which was a donation; installing new removeable aluminum stairs at the Pine Beach access; rebuilding the ramp at Royal Avenue down to the beach; funding the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan; various repairs and new work at the water tower, which received all new valves; installing a new flag pole at the village entrance; opening the new tennis and pickleball and basketball courts and having new balls for the driving range, which were donated. The parking lot at the basketball and tennis courts will be striped, which will indicate cars on one side and golf carts on the other and work on the sidewalk from Royal Avenue should start in about a week.

Councilmembers approved renewing the revised HydroCorp contract for cross-connection services, which will be for a one-year extension at a reduced rate of $797 per month.

Streets and Water Commissioner Ed Sebastian said that the services are regarding water system compliance, adding that the village is "obligated as a water system to monitor cross connections between the drinking water system and possible contamination sources, like swimming pools or irrigation systems."

"We pay HydroCorp to essentially inspect a percentage of the homes in the village each year," he said, adding that a letter of noncompliance is issued to homeowners if there are problems and then there's follow-up to ensure they're remedied.

Council members adopted a resolution to object to EGLE's suggestion to eliminate Grand Beach from the critical dune area. Walder said that the village is a part of EGLE's suggestion to eliminate an area from the Indiana border all the way past north of New Buffalo.

Sebastian said it's a continuation of what's been done for about two years, and it's based on "minimum required inspections" that are "specified by EGLE."

Council members adopted a resolution to object to EGLE's suggestion to eliminate Grand Beach from the critical dune area. Walder said that the village is a part of EGLE's suggestion to eliminate an area from the Indiana border all the way past north of New Buffalo.

Councilmembers approved a design for the new Grand Beach flag, which will feature a drawing of the entrance to the village on Royal Avenue, in green.

Council members approved authorizing police chief Ryan Layman to hire a part-time officer, David Hockenhull.

Walder said they raised $10,200 that will be used toward the purchase and installation of various trees and grasses to be planted throughout the village and gave thanks to the following individuals for their donations: Martin Joyce, Paul Powers, Stanley Awdisho, Michael Hall, Nancy Trainor, Christina Maciuk and David Birks/Erin Bartholomy.

The purchase of new fencing on the golf course from Custom Fence Company for $11,236.80 was approved.

They didn't have a problem with me being wild and crazy when it came time to fill the arenas.
— Dennis Rodman

New Buffalo marks Memorial Day 2026

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

New Buffalo residents and leaders paid their respects to those who lost their lives while fighting for their freedom during the traditional Memorial Day service at Pine Grove Cemetery Monday, May 25.

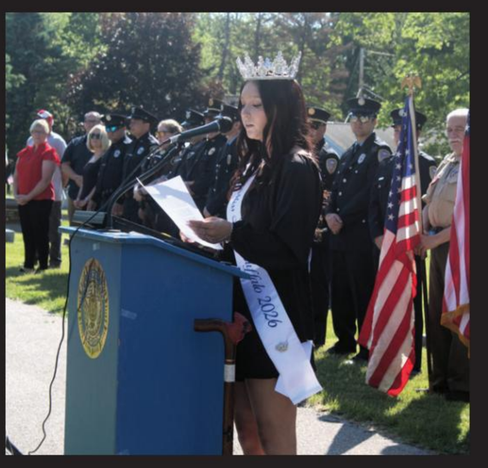
Members of the audience stood amidst the graves, many of which were bedecked with miniature American flags that flapped in the early morning breeze, while listening to reflections from Chuck Baran from the New Buffalo American Legion Post 169 and Miss New Buffalo 2026 Angelina Bryk. The Honor Guard gave the 21-gun salute, followed by the playing of "Taps." Members of the New Buffalo High School band performed the National Anthem as well as a medley of patriotic tunes.

Municipal leaders and officers pay respects the Pine Grove Cemetary

Members of the New Buffalo Royal Court pay their respects

Steve Beamer lays a wreath during the ceremony

Chuck Baran reflects on the day



Miss New Buffalo Angelina Bryk reflects on the day

Flags decorate the tombstones

The Honor Guard gives the 21-gun salute

The New Buffalo High School Band performs patriotic tunes

Members of the color guard stand at the cemetary

Red carpet steps beneath the Cannes 2026 artwork

Cinéma de la Plage, 40th anniversary screening of Paramount Pictures' Top Gun

Vin Diesel arrives at the 79th Cannes Film Festival

Inside the 79th Cannes Film Festival

BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS

As the morning sun reflects off the superyachts anchored in the azure Mediterranean, the curtains have officially closed on the 79th Cannes Film Festival. For 12 dazzling days, this French Riviera enclave transformed into the epicenter of the cultural universe, premiering 75 films from more than 54 countries. Once again, Cannes solidified its reputation as the premier stage for groundbreaking cinema, high fashion, and raw artistic expression.

Yet beneath the blinding sea of flashbulbs, this year's festival captured an industry in profound transition. A definitive narrative on the Croisette was the diminished presence of traditional Hollywood studios. As major American players took a back seat, independent powerhouses, sales agents, and global distributors stepped into the vacuum, trading finished films in a remarkably resilient, booming market.

This shifting landscape offered a golden opportunity for smaller, independent films to secure wider distribution. Yet, American commercial power loomed large in the background. Massive global box office buzz surrounding blockbusters like "The Devil Wears Prada 2" signaled a robust rebound in theatrical ticket sales, driving overall industry grosses upward.

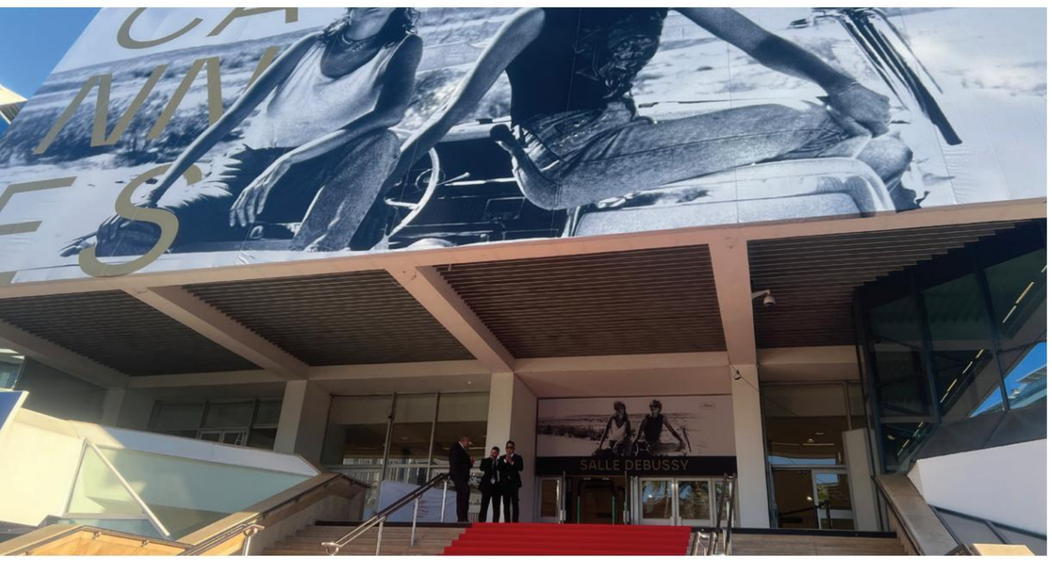
At the heart of the festival's prestige was the Main Competition Jury, which featured American actress Demi Moore. Tasked with honoring freedom of expression and creativity, the jury awarded the coveted Palme d'Or to "Fjord," directed by Romanian filmmaker Cristian Mungiu. The powerful film beautifully reminded audiences that cinema's ultimate value lies in its ability to foster empathy and confront the complex truths of our shared humanity.

Despite shifting industry mechanics, the sheer glamour of the Croisette remained untouched. High fashion and haute couture took center stage as celebrities ascended the iconic red-carpeted steps. Among the most electric moments was the arrival of the "Fast and the Furious" cast. Led by a charismatic Vin Diesel, the ensemble paused to enthusiastically greet waves of cheering fans and take photos on the red carpet before entering the theatre.

Away from the screening rooms, some of the festival's most impactful moments took place at the World Woman Cannes Agenda during "The Power of Influence" panel. A standout voice on the panel was Shanu Mehta, a visionary global entrepreneur and women's empowerment advocate. Mehta captivated the audience with an inspiring talk on breaking barriers and using media platforms to create tangible, real-world equity for women worldwide.

Down on the sand, the Cinéma de la Plage provided a magical, nostalgic escape. Under a canopy of stars, a special 40th anniversary screening of Paramount Pictures' 1986 masterpiece Top Gun was held directly on the beach. Attendees celebrated the film's enduring creative legacy in person, honoring the timeless vision of its late director, Tony Scott.

As the festival pavilions are dismantled, the region is already preparing for its next major spotlight. Cameras are currently rolling along the coast as HBO's hit series "The White Lotus" films its next season directly amidst the festival bustle, ensuring that the world's eyes will remain firmly fixed on this breathtaking corner of France. No matter how much the global market shifts, the magic of Cannes remains absolute



Red carpet steps beneath the Cannes 2026 artwork

The Fast and the Furious stars

Shanu Mehta, seated center for The Power of Influence panel at the World Woman Cannes Agenda

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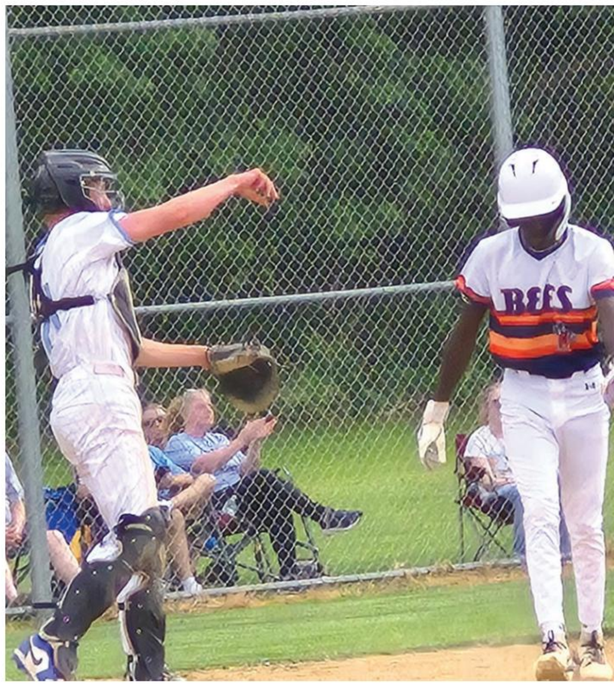


Raiders lose district opener to Bees in baseball

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders on Tuesday lost their opening game of the District 4 tournament to Bridgman, a team they beat twice during the regular season in high school baseball.

The final score was 12-1 in a game at River Valley High School called after six innings due to the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 10 run mercy rule.

Raiders Head Coach Ryan McCarty blamed too many walks by his pitchers and errors on defense for the disappointing loss.

"It wasn't the way any of us wanted to end it, but the sun is going to come up tomorrow. It is what it is. You got to move on," he said.

The Raiders (18-11-1) won the title in their division of the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference and played well at the end of the regular season in defeating Watervliet 6-5 and tying the Panthers, 2-2, in the second game of a doubleheader called after the 5th inning because of darkness.

"All in all, it was a good year," he said.

Starting pitcher Colten Lijewski with two strikeouts in the first inning gave up his first run in the second inning when catcher Drew Bowen trying to pick off a runner at third base threw the ball into the outfield.

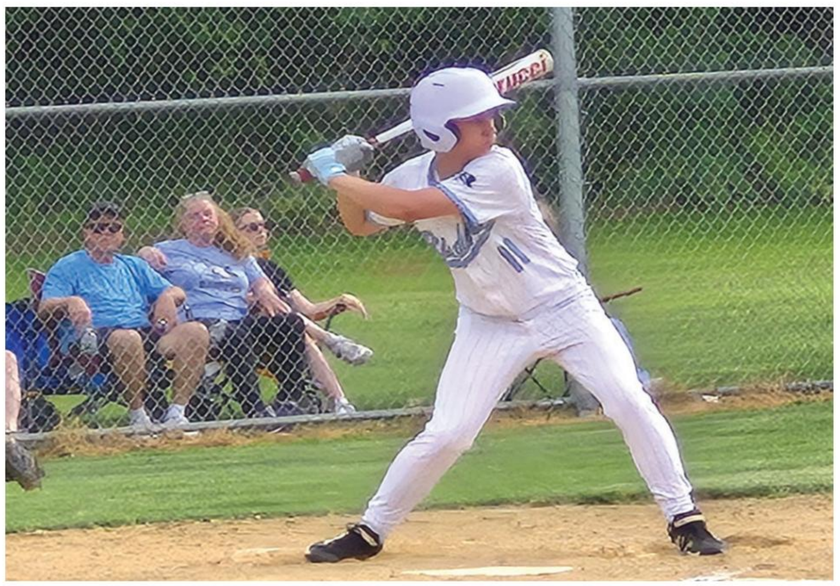
The Raiders evened the score in the bottom of the second inning when Bowen after drawing a walk and later advancing to third base crossed home plate on a sacrifice fly to left field by Justus Rowland.

In the top of the third inning, Bridgman had the bases full from walks and a single to left field when the runner at third base scored on a ground out to second baseman Lucas Thun.

The second and final run of the inning for the Bees scored on a wild pitch.

Lijewski pitched a scoreless fourth inning after working out of a jam but was taken out in the fifth inning following a walk and a run scoring single.

He was replaced by Jeff Tertel, who allowed three hits that included a bases clearing double deep to left field.



Ryan Ender took the mound for the Raiders in the sixth inning but after a ground out gave up a solo home run over the left field fence

He then gave up back to back singles and hit a batter with a pitch to load the bases when replaced by Braeden Bergerson, who gave up a run by hitting the first batter he faced with the ball.

Another run scored on a sacrifice fly to right field before the inning ended on a runner being thrown out trying to advance to third base.

Bergerson led off the final inning for the Raiders with a base hit but didn't score.

McCarty said he hopes his team of mostly underclassmen can learn and benefit from their mistakes next season.

"You just can't give anything to good baseball teams and Bridgman is a good team," he said.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The White Sox dropped two series in a row after beating the Cubs two out of three and the Cubs lost all six games on their home stand which, added to the Sox losses, brings their losing streak to eight.

The Bears have been quietly preparing for next season with about a thousand stories about them signing an edge rusher (all made up by the way), and for teams like the Blackhawks that didn't make the playoffs, hockey is off the radar until next season.

For the first time in quite a while, it appears to me that the Bulls are the most interesting story of the week.

Finally, after waiting too long, the Bulls fired the leaders of the front office after another unproductive season. The team has hired Bryson Graham to be the new Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations.

Besides having a long title, Graham comes with an outstanding player evaluation record that will come in handy because the Bulls have two first round draft picks.

The draft will be held on June 23rd and if they can get an outstanding player with their first pick (#4 in the draft) and a really good player with their second pick (#15), they should be on their way to being back in the playoffs in a year or two. Graham has to nail these two choices, but he has so much more to do.

Hiring the right coach, a coach who is really good at developing young players and also emphasizes defense, is just as important as acquiring good players.

I've heard the name of Tom Thibodeau thrown around and while he certainly emphasizes defense, I think the team will look for someone younger. The team also has nearly sixty million dollars in cap space, so even though Graham has said he wants to build the team the right way, with the assets he has, vast improvement could happen quickly.

Currently, the Bulls have a plethora of guards and last years first round choice, Noa Essengue. Noa injured his shoulder and only appeared in a couple of games last year so his value is yet to be determined.

They also have Matas Buzelis, a forward who in my opinion, has the best all around skills of anyone currently on the roster. Josh Giddey fills up the stat sheet better than most guards in the league, but he is not a good defender.

If whoever becomes the coach can teach Giddey to be a better defender, he could become one of the better players in the league.

So, there you have it.

With at least a couple of good players on the team, a couple of high draft choices, and enough cap space to sign a couple of decent free agents, the Bulls are in better shape than they've been in for years. There may be some growing pains, but in the very near future, they will once again be relevant.

Johnny Cash said, "You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

You learn the hard way or... you don't learn the hard way.
— Kosta Fatouros

Raiders open post season in girls' softball after capturing conference title

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders in girls' high school softball open the district tournament Saturday against Buchanan after winning the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference title in their division.

The Raiders were pummeled by Buchanan in last year's district finals game.

But Raiders Head Coach Erick Rochefort believes his team can win against the Bucks if they perform at the level they did at Michigan Lutheran for the conference title.

"Obviously, they're a great team but if we play like we played last Thursday nobody can defeat us," he said.

The game against Michigan Lutheran for the conference title was won by the Raiders 12-1.

The Raiders scored four runs in the first inning with help from back-to-back doubles from sluggers Johnna Rochefort and Addison Lynch.

The game was called after five innings under the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 10 run mercy rule.

Rylee Rudolph went the distance in what seemed like her best performance of the season from the mound.

"From start to finish, she was just hitting her spots with speed and accuracy," Rochefort said.

Rochefort, Lynch and Laney Strother, who was hitting in the lead-off position for the first time all season, each had three hits.

Brianna Taylor, the only senior on the team, also reached base three times on hits.

Rochefort said all of the runs were scored against Addison Peppers, one of the best pitchers in the conference.

He said the desire of his players to win was obvious from the moment they walked onto the field.

"They came out ready to play from the first pitch to the last pitch. Nothing was getting them down," he said.

Michigan Lutheran won the second game of the doubleheader 13-10.

The Raiders are scheduled to play their district opener at River Valley High School beginning at 12 p.m.

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Welcoming summer at annual Family Festival

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

St. Mary of the Lake Memorial Day Family Festival heralded the unofficial start to summer Friday through Sunday, May 22-24.

Kids and adults alike rode the traditional carnival rides by Anderson Midways, enjoyed elephant ears, cotton candy and other hallmark festival treats and tried their luck at the midway games. Carnival goers also grabbed a homemade sweet treat from the bake sale that was being held by the Altar and Rosary Society.

Kolton Berdman and Matthijs Lawhorn

Martin Orpic enjoys the festival with daughter, Adele

Children ride aboard the dragon rollercoaster

Guests purchase festival treats

Festivalgoers enjoy St. Mary's Festival in New Buffalo

Desiah Frazier tries his luck at a game

Lile Rowland chooses a duck from the duck pond

Children walk across a bridge as part of one of the many rides

Linda Staples, Tracy Miller, Mary Sue Tulik and Laverne Ondresky sell treats at the bake sale

Christina and Kacie Kaczanowksi enjoy the slide

Amaya Vosberg enjoys a ride

Festivalgoers check out the midway

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From the Dish Pit...

A HIGHSCHOOLER'S TAKE ON REAL LIFE TOPICS

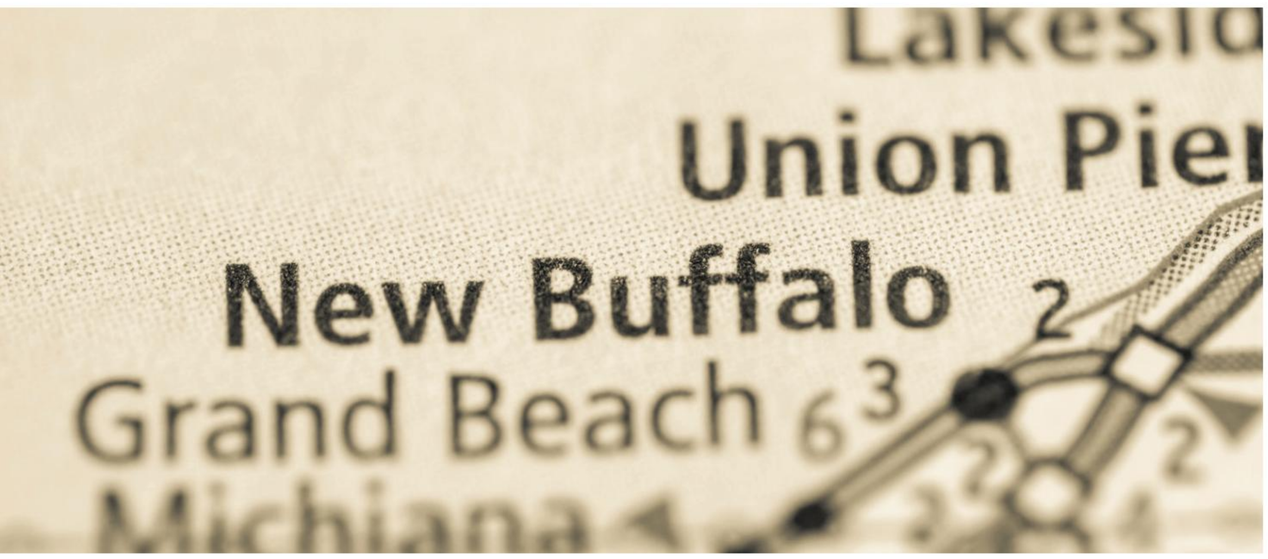
BY SYLVIE DARLING

Worth the Wait

Every year, April opens our doors and offers us a glimpse of summer – warbling birds, tender buds, and milky blue skies. She lets us lean closer, breathing in the smell of earth and rain and living things, only to slam the door again. The slam was especially jarring one morning as I woke up to a sheet of frost on my windshield. Frost? I had hoped we were done with icy white substances for the next six months. Sighing, I dug the plastic scraper out of my trunk and awkwardly stabbed at the windshield, suddenly unsure of how to clear it. Winter must have been a long time ago.

The next day, the temperature had risen again, and people lingered a little longer in the shop. A spark of hope glimmered in their eyes as they cracked jokes about the weather and sipped iced lattes. Later that day, I heard an older man remark, "What's not to love about Michigan springs, eh? Winter and summer all in one package!" I wanted to point out that it was, in fact, the worst of both seasons, but I held my tongue. As if reading my mind, his wife responded, "But don't you get tired of the spring here? I mean, they're so unpredictable – rain one day and then sun the next." As I headed back to the Dish Pit, I heard the man's gravelly voice reply, "Yes, but I think summer is worth the wait."

His words lingered in my mind while I drove home. "What's not to love about Michigan springs?" At first, I struggled to understand how the man saw beauty in such an unpredictable season. We live in a world of instant gratification, where comfort and pleasure are immediately at our fingertips. When we are unsatisfied, we press skip. But nature doesn't have a skip button; and no matter how hard we try, we will never be able to jump from the bleak, cold winter to the steady, warm summer. Spring is nature's way of forcing us to be patient and to appreciate the in-between. Snow melting. Flowers unfurling. Birds returning home. And if we're patient, we can find the beauty in the waiting.



A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Right where I needed be...I thought"

Everything felt so natural and right. I was writing episode after episode of Lady Lovely Locks and the Pixietails. I wanted to get the first five episodes under my belt before I solicited springboards from outside writers. I reasoned having some episodes written would be beneficial to them, but I also wanted to write a lot of episodes on my own.

With my script fees flowing in at a steady pace, I booked a cruise to the Caribbean(!). I also decided it was a good time for me to make a career move, so I set a meeting with Andy, Jean still nowhere to be found. Alone with Andy in his office, I told him I want to be appointed Vice President of Creative Affairs. I laid out my case: I'd racked up a healthy stack of scripts written by yours truly and I'd been a story editor on three series and was working on a fourth, so I had a network of writers established.

When I finished, Andy told me he'd already a hired a VP of Creative Affairs. I was stunned. When I asked who it was, he said, "Robby London. He worked at Hanna Barbera. He starts tomorrow. I'll introduce you. You'll work great with each other."

Andy could tell I was disappointed. To lessen the blow he said, "I'm promoting you to Senior Story Editor. It's more money. I know you're writing a lot of episodes now. There's no reason why you shouldn't be making a hundred thousand a year."

He was right. It did lessen the blow, but only a little...

When I first met Robby London he impressed me as 'a suit' – all dressed up in his business suit and tie. I don't mean that to be denigrating. The entertainment industry needed suits as much as writers. With his only having written fourteen episodes during his 'career', he certainly wasn't a heavyweight writer, but one didn't need writing credits to be a producer or executive producer. Still, Robby also had zero credits as a producer or executive producer. What he did have was a friendship with Andy.

Working at DIC would serve Robby well. Over the years, he'd pile up an enormous number of producer and executive producer credits – and, along with them, a great deal of money -- while working with his friend Andy.

Andy introduced me in glowing terms, reeling off my many writing credits. Robby seemed easy going, not the killer shark – and I mean that in the most complimentary way – that Andy was. He was friendly, saying he'd heard great things about me from Andy and Jean, and was looking forward to working with me. I couldn't have cared less.

I'd been passed over and it stuck in my craw. At first I was doubly offended that Andy had gone outside of the studio to pull in someone with so little executive experience to be VP of Creative Affairs. But then it occurred to me that was what Jean had done when he offered me the chance to write for television.

Putting friends into positions of authority was one of the perks of power. So Robby's being VP of Creative Affairs was something I was going to have to live with. I also realized that eventually, one way or another, Robby and I would cross swords.

HOROSCOPE

MAY 28-JUNE 3, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The vibe radiating your way this week, is centered in communication. The issue is it's misfiring a little, and you are apt believe something false or think you have the facts, when you don't. Also, the rumor mill will be fresh with exciting tidbits but don't bite. Wait things out, before getting involved.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Staying focused and following through with the stated directions is needed this week. Unfortunately, the energy coming your way now, can make you very gullible. Making you vulnerable to scams, and the not so on up and up behavior, from peers. Keep very close track of your spending now.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Partners, whether romantic or business, could make you feel boxed in or that their influence is too dominating. There may have been situations where you could have set up better boundaries in the past, that will come up again. This is the time to reevaluate where you stand on things.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Maintain your determination and stay the course. Don't fall prey to self-delusion or that past misunderstandings cannot be overcome. This is the time to give people a break and not get caught up in debates or overanalyzing things. Brush yourself off and get back in the game.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There will be a change in trajectory this week and your relationships will undergo a definite change in course. People or societal issues will trigger and connect with some of your own personal concerns. Which may give you the chance to make amends, or have a sudden change of heart.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Now is the time to work on your routine and streamline the procedures you perform. This is not the time to assume you know how things will operate on a daily basis, until you actually start doing things. Don't get locked into a system, until you try things out in real time and on a real job.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

The vibe coming in this week will affect your work and daily routine sectors. Making the environment at work feel off course or that the day isn't proceeding in a timely and productive manner. Also, something that you had your heart set on, may not turn out to be all you had hoped for.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The energy this week has the ability to unearth obstacles and sometimes they can end up in the path. This is the time to make moves that may be a little unusual or not the recommended course of action but that can get you through difficulties, without too many complications.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You could be hit with some relationship road blocks, this week. Whether they are about personal space, division of household labor or emotional availability, you are going to have to communicate. There may be old issues that need to be unearthed and new boundaries built.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

It's important you remain consistent and follow through with plans, even if communications get screwy. You may not be able to complete the work in the timeframe you had envisioned, due to forces beyond your control, but you will get it done. Better late than never. So, stay on it.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

There is an air of disillusionment or the feeling that things aren't as fulfilling as you had expected, settling in this week. The important thing is that even if projects or ideas don't pan out the first time, you have the experience of doing it wrong, and can see where you need to make changes.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The breakthrough will come when you withdraw and take some time to think things through for yourself. If conversation become heated or you start to feel confused about a key issue, back off. Don't let others run roughshod over you. Move to higher ground, you don't get drowned out.

Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it. — *Rene Descartes*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		1			6			
			4	5		3		
6	4				1			2
4	5				7			
				2				6
	3					8		
3			5				8	
8	1	2						5
								7

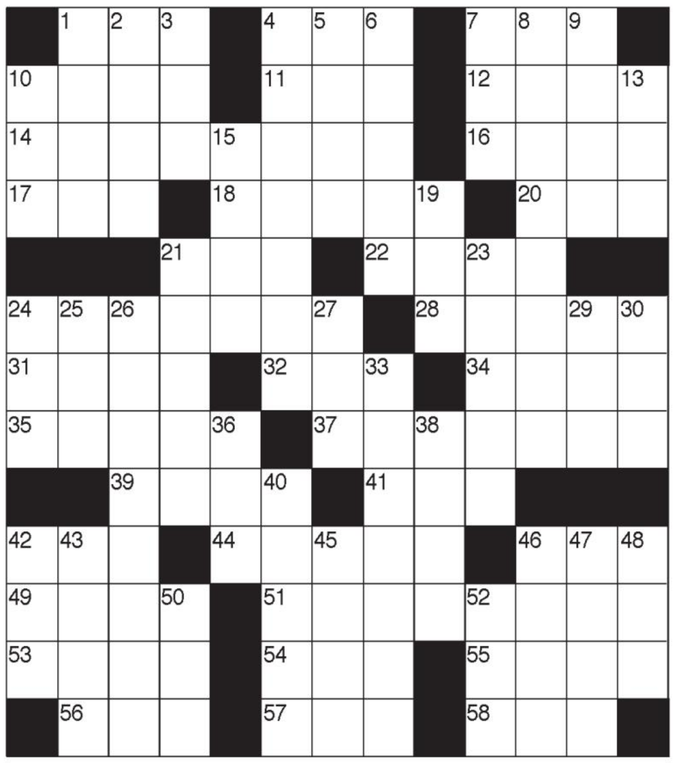
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Limited (abbr.)
4 Bachelor of Engineering in Mines (abbr.)
7 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)
10 Agricultural establishment
11 Grape
12 Fahrenheit (abbr.)
14 Large number
16 Silly smile
17 Irregular moving part
18 SW Alaskan native
20 Old Provencal (abbr.)
21 Abatement
22 Legal
24 Destroyed
28 Loose
31 Few (pref.)
32 Wish undone
34 Broad structural basin
35 Clemenceau's nickname
37 Patient
39 Den
41 Spread to dry hay
42 Master of Science in Engineering (abbr.)
44 Oriental country
46 Queen's bishop's pawn (abbr.)
49 Eight (Ital.)
51 Exclusive possession
53 Insane (arch.)
54 Adjective-forming (suf.)
55 Highest point
56 Dry (pref.)
57 Ike
58 Son of Ra

DOWN

1 Byron poem
2 Prune
3 Doctor of Modern Languages (abbr.)
4 Constructor
5 Bacchanalian cry
6 Siberian wild cat
7 Afghanistan (abbr.)
8 Spree
9 Nick
10 Federal Trade Commission (abbr.)
13 Royal Naval Reserve (abbr.)
15 Language (abbr.)
19 Egyptian god of the sky
21 Tidal bore
23 Toward center
24 Lose freshness
25 Adopted son of Mohammed
26 Play
27 Driving under the influence (abbr.)
29 Hebrew judge
30 Youngster
33 Agreement
36 Comparative ending
38 Official negation
40 Suited to the occasion
42 Master of Hounds (abbr.)
43 Hades river
45 Cohere
46 19th Hebrew letter
47 Blue (Fr.)
48 Church box
50 Across (poet.)
52 Steps in ballet



NEW BUFFALO TIMES COLUMNIST JACK OLESKER WILL BE APPEARING MAY 30-31 AT HALL OF HEROES COMIC CON 2026

With a career spanning over 40 years, Jack has written, directed, and produced more than 1,200 episodes of television, along with films and novels. His resume includes work on iconic series like The New Adventures of He-Man, Care Bears, M.A.S.K., The Super Mario Bros. Super Show, Heathcliff and the Catillac Cats, and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater.

He also played a key role in developing the global phenomenon Mighty Morphin Power Rangers!

Welcome to the 2026 Hall of Heroes Comic Con

Join us May 30-31, 2026, at the Northern Indiana Event Center in Elkhart, IN, where we will be bringing in some of the industries most talented celebrities and artists and over 150 of the region's best vendors, artists, and cosplayers.

SHOW HOURS
Saturday: 10am*-6pm
Sunday: 10am*-5pm

*9:30am early entry for all VIP ticket holders

A new chapter for Flagship Fish Market

ANCHORS AWEIGH IN LAKESIDE:

BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS

Tucked along the woodsy shores of Lake Michigan in Lakeside, Michigan, a beloved local staple is entering a vibrant new era. Flagship Specialty Food & Fish Market has officially changed hands, passing from long-time owner and executive chef Rachel Collins to culinary artist Leslie Sorensen.

Naming a seafood shop "Flagship" carries weight, suggesting the gold standard of the fleet—a reputation Sorensen embraces. She envisions the market as a boutique for rare catches, a premium to-go spot for expertly prepared foods, and a deeply rooted, community-focused social hub.

For Sorensen, business ownership in Lakeside is a natural evolution. She is the daughter of Dr. Harry and Kathy Sorensen, longtime community pillars who founded the New Buffalo Animal Hospital in 1982. Growing up witnessing her parents' decades-long legacy of service, Leslie carries that same spirit of dedication into the culinary world.

Rachel Collins and Leslie Sorensen
Photo by Janet Moore Schrader

Sorensen's grand opening on Earth Day mirrored her commitment to keeping the market's essence intact while focusing on an ethical, traditional, and craft-focused vibe. Flagship prioritizes sustainable sourcing by partnering with top suppliers and supporting independent fishermen—the seafood equivalent of farm-to-table.

Central to that seamless transition has been Collins, who spent over 30 years in the seafood industry building Flagship's foundation. Sorensen notes that Collins has been a massive pillar of support during the handover. "Rachel is teaching me how to talk to the fishmongers, and she has been such a supportive figure," Sorensen said.

To add a local touch, Sorensen plans to continue sourcing fresh catches from Great Lakes fisheries while keeping the counter balanced with a versatile selection of classic freshwater species and exotic seafood from around the world. "We get fresh fish in daily like salmon and whitefish, along with other rotating options depending on what's coming in and what's in season," Sorensen explained.

The market boasts an extensive variety of smoked delicacies, including salmon, trout, mussels, sweet salmon jerky, and house-made salmon and whitefish spreads. On the shelves, customers will find gourmet goods like fine cheeses and Italian olives.

For those looking for a quick bite, the grab-and-go kitchen is bustling. While the classic chicken salad has returned to the rotation, the nutrient-packed Quinoa Bowl with Tahini Lemon Dressing remains a big hit. Other favorites include the Hampton Shrimp Salad portioned to order, grilled shrimp, and Flagship's Fish and Chips, which now features a gluten-free option.

Customer service remains paramount under Sorensen's leadership. "I will try to order any specialty fish or live shellfish people request, if they call ahead," she noted. "I can get a lot of things the very next day." Whether you are dropping in for a daily cut-to-order catch, picking up a heat-and-eat meal, or reserving a custom order for a weekend gathering, Flagship is firmly anchored as Lakeside's premier seafood destination.

COMMUNITY INVITED TO SECOND 'THREE OAKS FLAG PROJECT' PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

More than 150 community members gathered in downtown Three Oaks on Thursday, May 14, for the Lemonade Social, a community event organized by Stroll Three Oaks as part of The Three Oaks Flag Project, a public art initiative celebrating Flag Day and community pride.

Due to the overwhelming response from the community, a second photo event has been added noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Commune + Market, 105 N Elm Street, Three Oaks.

"We've had several community members reach out asking for another date, and we're happy to make it happen," said Tom Pauly. "The village keeps showing up, and we wanted to make sure everyone had the chance to be included."

Held at Commune + Market, the event on May 14th invited residents, business owners, students, local leaders, and visitors to enjoy lemonade, treats, music, games, and community connection while having their photographs taken for a large American flag collage made entirely of local faces.

The evening featured festive decorations, social activities, and photographers capturing both individual portraits and candid moments throughout the gathering. Several members of the Village Council and local business owners attended the event, helping make the evening feel like a true community celebration.

Among those in attendance were event sponsors Realtor Melissa Francis of Keller Williams Realty and Harbor Country Rolloff owner Melissa Luehring.

"The people of Three Oaks are more than just customers—they are our neighbors, friends, and the heart of Harbor Country. As a family-owned and operated business, we are profoundly grateful for the trust and support we receive here. Supporting local efforts like the 'Three Oaks Flag Project' initiative is our way of saying thank you and demonstrating our commitment to keeping our shared community beautiful, clean, and strong for generations to come," said Melissa Luehring, owner of Harbor Country Rolloff

Over the next several weeks, Stroll Three Oaks volunteers will begin assembling the large flag collage, which will debut during the annual Three Oaks Flag Day Parade in downtown Three Oaks. Organizers are also planning to display the flag during Independence Day weekend celebrations.

The Three Oaks Flag Project is designed to celebrate community identity through public art by creating a large American flag made entirely from the faces of the people who call Three Oaks home. When completed, the mosaic flag will serve as a lasting visual tribute to the spirit, diversity, and connectedness of the community. — STAFF REPORTS

HIKERS TO EXPLORE GRAND MERE STATE PARK

Hikers are invited to explore Grand Meres State Park at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 6.

"Grand Marais Embayment" is a 16-mile-long, ancient marine bay running parallel to the Lake Michigan shoreline in western Berrien County. This coastal feature extends between Lakeside in the south and Stevensville in the north and is famous for containing some of the largest freshwater dunes in the world and two state parks. Hikers can join the next Harbor Country Hikers adventure led by HCH President Pat Fisher and learn how 10,000 years of events transformed this bay into globally rare coastal dunes, interdunal lakes, and diverse ecological habitats. Hikers will hike a section of the undeveloped sanctuary originally named "Grand Marais" (French for big swamp) but now known as Grand Mere State Park.

Grand Mere is nearly 1,000 acres of beautiful undeveloped wetlands, woods, sand dunes and beach. Protected from Lake Michigan by the dunes to the west, the park has many natural features not found throughout the rest of the state. In 1968 it was designated a National Natural Landmark. Recreation Passport is required.

For more information, including driving directions, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.org, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

BCYF large animal deadline approaching

The deadline for large animals to be exhibited at the 2026 Berrien County Youth Fair is June 1.

Animals needing to be registered by June 1 include Dairy, Sheep, Goats, Swine, Llamas/Alpacas, Equine and Beef breeding. Registration is open to any Berrien County resident ages 5 to 20 years of age. Exhibitor age is as of Jan. 1, 2026. Online registration is available for all departments, except equine, which must complete an equine entry form and return it to the BCYF office by June 1.

Online registration has been updated to a new program this year. It will look different, but the general process is the same. Exhibitors should create a username and password, which will be carried over from year to year. Options for families or group entries are available. Once registered, exhibitors can return to the program and add more entries up until each entry deadline, except for equine. The exhibitor's printed confirmation will serve as the traditional yellow copy of the entry form and is required on entry day, just as the yellow copy of the traditional entry form is. The link for online entries can be found at www.bcyf.org.

Entry forms may be brought to the Fair office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Monday through Friday prior to June 1, or postmarked by June 1 or registration forms can be placed in the drop box outside the Fair Office after office hours or until 6 p.m. on June 1.

Animal identification rules from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) include Dairy and Beef, which must have official MDARD identification tag – Tag Hotline 888-565-8626 or registered breed tattoo accompanied by breed registration papers; Goats, which must have official USDA Scrapie identification tag – Tag Hotline 517-337-4705 or registered breed tattoo accompanied by breed registration papers; Sheep, which must have official USDA Scrapie tag – Tag Hotline 517-337-4705 and Swine, as swine market ear tags must be a USDA 840 tag – Tag Hotline 888-565-8626.

All applicable USDA scrapie, RFID and 840 tag numbers must be on the entry form when it is turned into the Fair Office by the June 1 deadline, so youth need to order their tags as soon as possible. Exhibitors wishing to enter a registered goat must turn in a copy of goat registration papers with entry form.

In addition to the USDA required ear tag, individuals registering market animals (with the exception of swine) will also need BCYF market tags. Sheep and Goat tags will be dispersed on June 3 and 4 during the mandatory sheep and goat tagging event held at the BCYF. All goat and sheep BCYF ear tags must be in the animals' ear by June 4 or the entry will be disqualified. Swine tags must be in ears by July 11.

Other registration deadlines include July 1: Small animals (rabbits, poultry, cats, dogs, pocket pets) and Aug. 1:

- Still exhibits (crafts, home economics, flowers, horticulture, variety classes).

As a reminder, there are limited numbers of exhibitor handbooks and entry forms available at the Berrien County Youth Fair, all Berrien County Public libraries, Baroda City Mills in Baroda; Country Heritage Credit Union in Buchanan; Family Farm and Home in Benton Harbor; Tractor Supply Company, Rural King and Mark Farm Supply in Niles; Seifert's Farm Supply in Three Oaks and Tractor Supply Company in Stevensville.

No late registrations will be accepted. Questions can be addressed by contacting the Fair Office at 269-473-4251 or entry@bcyf.org. Dates for the 2026 Berrien County Youth

Fair are Aug. 17-22 with the theme "Happy Birthday America!" — STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC NOTICES

VILLAGE OF MICHIANA
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE PROPOSED 2026/2027 FISCAL YEAR
MILLAGE AND BUDGET

The Village of Michiana will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 fiscal year budget and the proposed millage rates for 2026 on Friday, June 12th at 12:45pm ET at the Village of Michiana Village Hall, 4000 Cherokee Drive, Michiana, MI 49117

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS MEETING. THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWES:
OPERATING: 6.3946 MILLS
OPERATING: 0.8876 MILLS
EMERGENCY SERVICES: 0.8803 MILLS

The proposed budget will be adopted at the Village of Michiana Council Meeting immediately following the public hearing. Action on the 2026 millage will also be taken at the meeting.

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, (MCL 41.72a(2)(3)) and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Village of Michiana by writing or calling the following:
Village of Michiana
4000 Cherokee Dr.
Michiana, MI 49117
269-469-4600

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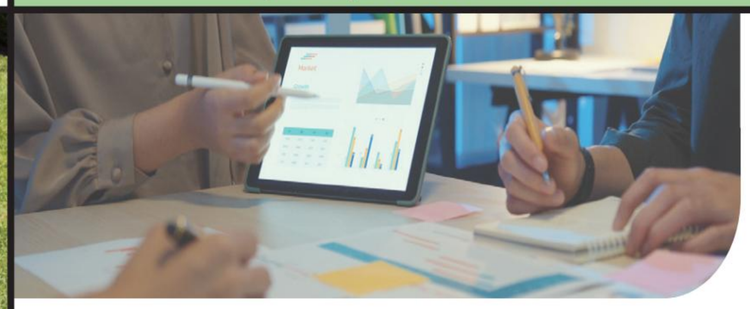

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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

KEEP YOUR AGING BRAIN HEALTHY

An idle brain, like an idle body will atrophy. Keeping your brain healthy and youthful requires that you use it. Cognitive decline is not an inevitable fate just because we age. Regular stimulation will ensure your brain stays healthy like it is supposed to.

Keeping your mind vibrant relies on small, intentional daily habits. Aerobic activities like walking, swimming, or cycling increases blood flow to the brain, promoting a process called neurogenesis (new brain cells), and strengthens neural pathways and connections.

Diet is also very important to a healthy and active brain. Eating processed foods and drinks will destroy neurons. It contributes to chronic inflammation, reduces cognitive function, and increases risks for depression, sleep problems, anxiety, dementia, and stroke. It can cause shrinkage in brain areas associated with memory and learning.

Highly processed foods can also disrupt healthy gut bacteria. This disruption can cause a "leaky gut," allowing inflammatory molecules to enter the bloodstream and trigger neuroinflammation. This is a key driver of brain fog, depression, and cognitive decline. To promote neuroplasticity, memory, and executive function, you need to learn new skills. Maybe music, or a language. Also, playing strategy games like chess or puzzles can help. So can social interactions and proper sleep. These are all very beneficial to brain synapsis.

What is good for the heart is good for the head. The brain requires a massive amount of energy and nutrients to function efficiently, making diet your first line of defense.

The Mediterranean Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay (MIND) diet has consistently shown an ability to lower dementia risk. Rather than focusing on strict deprivation, this way of eating highlights adding brain-boosting whole foods to your plate:

Leafy greens: Spinach, kale, and collards are packed with vitamin K and beta-carotene. Berries: Blueberries and strawberries are rich in flavonoids, which help delay cognitive aging. Healthy fats: Omega-3 fatty acids and DHA found in salmon, walnuts, flax and olive oil serve as literal building blocks for brain cells. Algae based supplements can offer a direct source of DHA/EPA.

A diet focused on vegetables, fruits, nuts, beans, whole grains, and healthy fats has proven that this offers great health and nutrients to our brain.

Moving your body, builds your mind. Physical activity is probably the closest thing we have to a cognitive fountain of youth. Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, delivering needed oxygen and glucose. More importantly, it triggers the release of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a protein that acts like fertilizer for brain cells, encouraging the growth of new neurons. This will build a resilient "cognitive reserve" that buffers against decline. It triggers the stem cells in your hippocampus to grow, survive, and mature into brand-new, functioning neurons.

Chronic stress floods the system with cortisol, which can damage memory centers over time. Counteract this by prioritizing seven to eight hours of quality sleep each night. During deep sleep, the brain activates a unique waste-clearance system that flushes out this cellular debris, including the plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

MOUSE

This energetic girl is Mouse. She's friendly, happy, joyful, fun, playful, and energetic one-year-old that weighs 53 pounds, and is spayed. Mouse is good with other dogs, and may do well with cats. She loves to politely sit and take snacks, and is eager to learn other positive habits. Mouse is an avid walker, and is totally fine with chilling out, meeting new people, and spreading puppy-love. Make Mouse part of your home today.

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New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

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ARS Gallery cuts the ribbon in Lakeside

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

After more than 15 years in Benton Harbor, Anna Russo Sieber was ready to spread her love of a variety of art to people of all ages and from all backgrounds to the southern part of the Berrien County.

Recently, she cut the ribbon with the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce on ARS Gallery, Arts & Culture Center's new location: at 15300 in Lakeside, Michigan.

Russo Sieber, who's a teaching artist by trade, worked at the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph for 15 year and had a studio in the nearby Box Factory for the Arts, where she ran some art programs.

"And then I just saw there was an opportunity to go into Benton Harbor almost 16 years ago -and I was there for a long time," she said.

While at Krasl, Russo Sieber said that she would often bring groups of people on tours of the studios from Harbor Country all the way up to Saugatuck.

Brian Kissman, whose mother owned the building that ARS is in, approached Russo Sieber.

"He said, 'We'd love to have something like what you're doing down here, why don't you come and look' – and that was it," she said.

A 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization, ARS is a community art center, with a gallery and public art presence. It features at least 14 artists from around the world, such as New Zealand, and around the country, from New York to Detroit to Chicago.

Russo Sieber said that they have offered close to a couple of thousand underserved youth many opportunities to be exposed to the arts, such as through the I Am the Greatest Project. Named for the famous mantra from the greatest boxer of all time, Muhammad Ali, who has ties to Southwest Michigan, the project features a series of 16 sculptures by John Sauvé that are bright red-orange representations of the struggle to overcome adversity and have been installed throughout the Benton Harbor and St Joseph.

"We educated youth through that - showing them this is the face of our community, and this image is representational of working through tough times and coming back stronger and the kids really gravitated toward that," Russo Sieber said.

Russo Sieber said she plans to bus youth down to Lakeside and may even hold a festival in the fall for youth from the Readiness Center in Benton Harbor.

Diane Bartley, secretary on the ARS Board of Directors, said that ARS has been a "major influence for over 15 years of the Art District of Benton Harbor and the Twin Cities giving underserved youth a wonderful opportunity to be exposed to art in many different ways and also classes and personal growth, which has enriched their lives."

"As ARS, we'll continue to do so along with expanding the opportunity of the arts of the youth of south county – it's also an exciting time for ARS to spread our wings and expand our horizons," she said.

A mural," Jacobi's Wings" by South Bend muralist Alex Anne Allen, which features nine butterflies symbolizing the youth who have passed through ARS programs and gone on to make a difference in the world fluttering across it, adorns the gallery's Benton Harbor building.

For more on upcoming workshops at ARS, visit arsartsandculutre.org.

Members of the ARS Board of Directors are Russo Sieber, founder and president; Stan Whitaker Jr., vice president; Bartley, secretary and Meredith Schmidt, honorary board member.

Citadel provides the entertainment

Cutting the ribbon on ARS' Lakeside location

Guests mingle in ARS' lakeside location

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